



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 27, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.*

## SUMMARY

During the week ending December 27, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **HIGH** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments increased substantially. The proportion of MRITS respondents experiencing ILI also jumped. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at the reporting clinical laboratories rose for the ninth straight week. The DHMH lab tested fewer specimens, but saw an increase in the proportion of specimens testing positive. There were 18 outbreaks of respiratory disease. Nationally, influenza activity continues to climb.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

### ILI Intensity Levels

Minimal

Low

Moderate

✓ High

### Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity

Sporadic

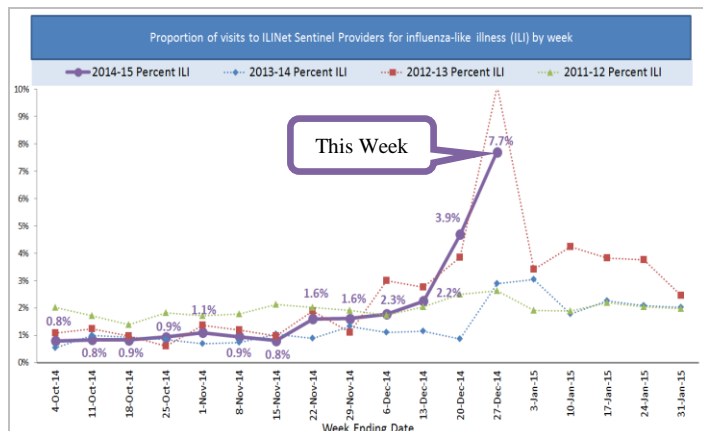
Local

Regional

✓ Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

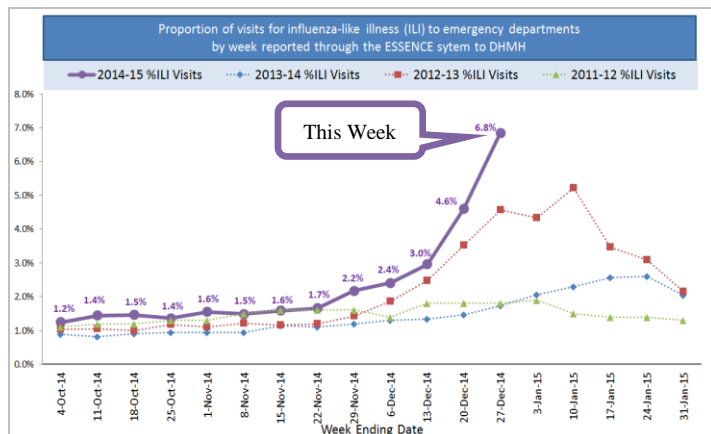
Fifteen sentinel providers reported a total of 3,804 visits this week. Of those, 293 (7.7%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	75 (26%)	68 (17%)	610 (27%)
Age 5-24	104 (35%)	185 (46%)	995 (44%)
Age 25-49	71 (24%)	90 (22%)	427 (19%)
Age 50-64	22 (8%)	47 (12%)	160 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	21 (7%)	16 (4%)	69 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	293 (100%)	406 (100%)	2261 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 51,691 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 3,538 (6.8%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	731 (21%)	532 (23%)	3843 (26%)
Age 5-24	1172 (33%)	876 (39%)	5172 (36%)
Age 25-49	901 (25%)	538 (24%)	3375 (23%)
Age 50-64	386 (11%)	167 (7%)	1258 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	348 (10%)	152 (7%)	865 (6%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	3538 (100%)	2265 (100%)	14516 (100%)

## Other states' influenza information:

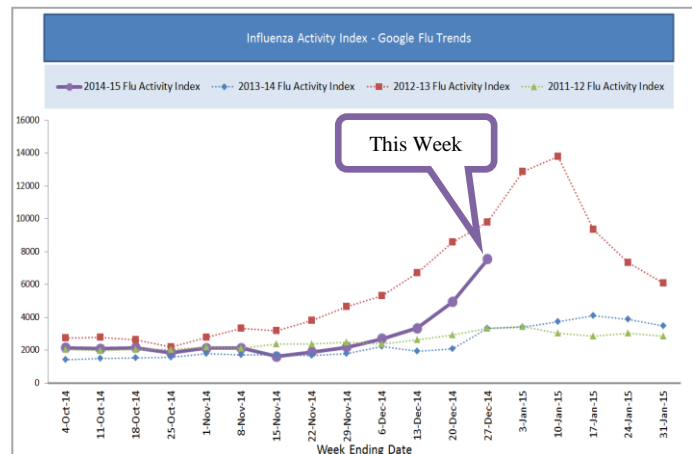
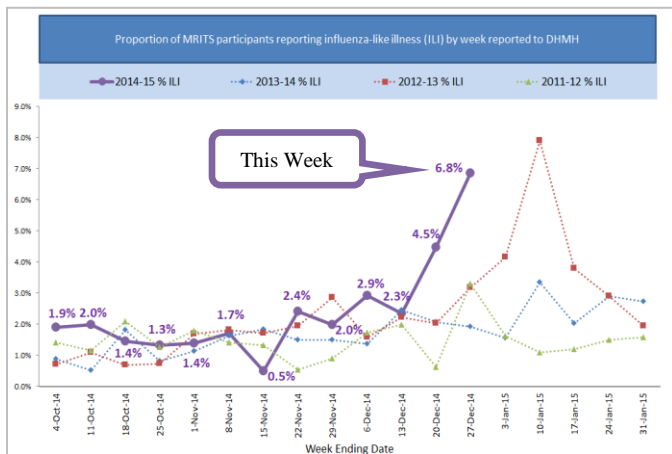
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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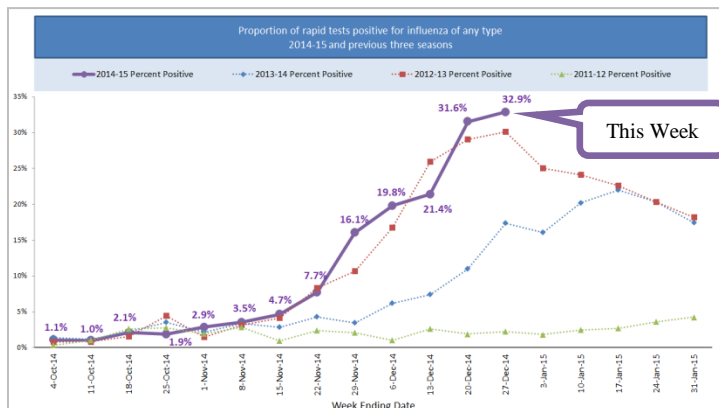
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 599 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 41 (6.8%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 115 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "High" in Maryland.

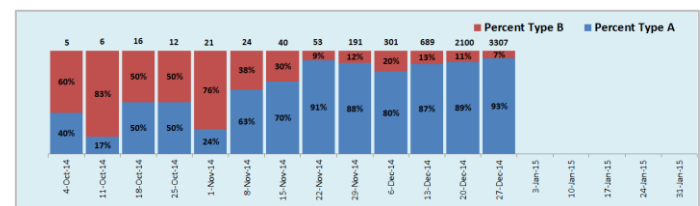


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-three clinical laboratories reported performing 10,061 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 3,307 (32.9%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 3,074 (93.0%) were influenza Type A and 233 (7.0%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

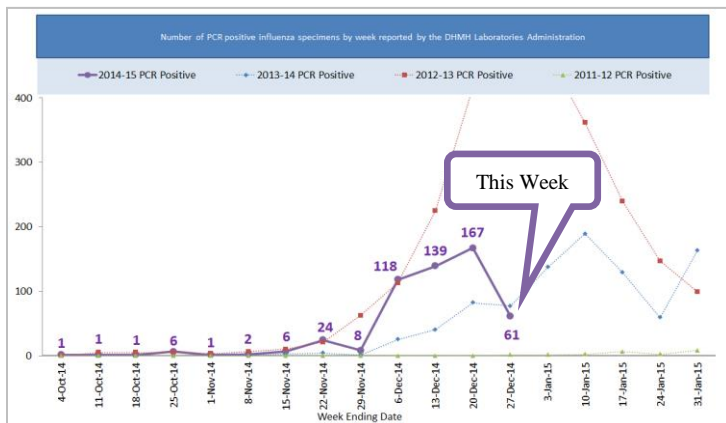


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	3074 (93%)	1876 (89%)	6071 (90%)
Type B	233 (7%)	224 (11%)	694 (10%)
Total	3307 (100%)	2100 (100%)	6765 (100%)



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 90 PCR tests for influenza. Of those, 61 (67.8%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 60 (98.4%) were Type A (H3N2) and 1 (1.6%) was Type B. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	--
Type A (H3)	60 (98%)	165 (99%)	525 (98%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	1 (2%)	2 (1%)	10 (2%)
Total	61 (100%)	167 (100%)	535 (100%)

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

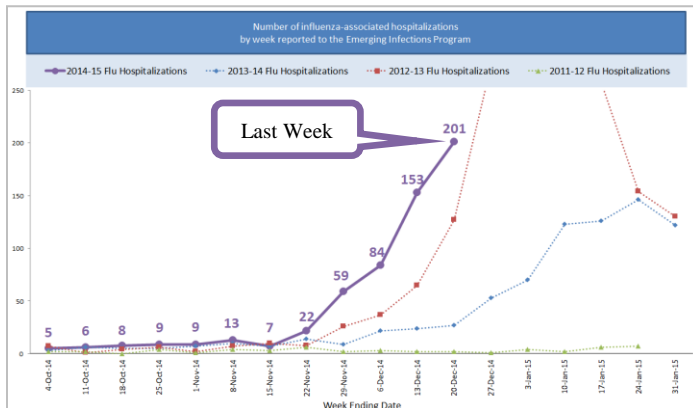
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

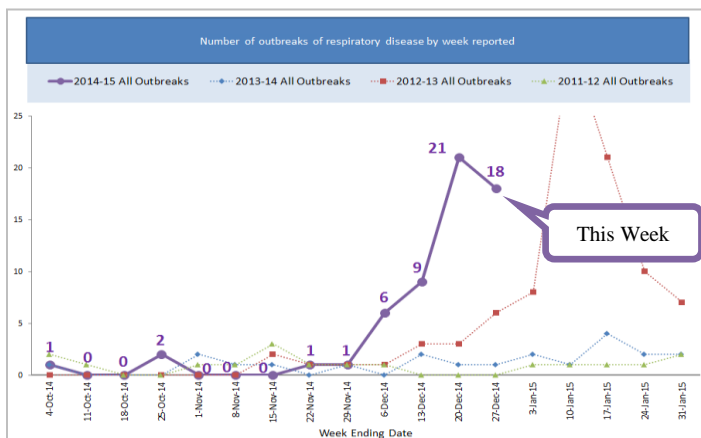
Hospitalization reports for the week ending December 27, 2014 were unavailable at the time this report was published.. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	N/A	5 (2%)	45 (8%)
Age 5-17	N/A	8 (4%)	25 (4%)
Age 18-24	N/A	8 (4%)	23 (4%)
Age 25-49	N/A	19 (9%)	69 (12%)
Age 50-64	N/A	45 (22%)	106 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	N/A	116 (58%)	308 (53%)
Total	N/A	201 (100%)	576 (100%)

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were 18 respiratory outbreaks reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	13 (72%)	8 (38%)	28 (47%)
Influenza-like Illness	5 (28%)	10 (48%)	22 (37%)
Pneumonia	--	3 (14%)	9 (15%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	18 (100%)	21 (100%)	59 (100%)

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

National influenza surveillance updates for the United States are posted every week on the CDC website. Due to the shortened holiday week, CDC will be posting this week's update on Monday, January 5, 2015. If you wish to see this week's national surveillance update, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly> on or after January 5.